

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202784

EXDIS FOR AMB. YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT ALEXANDRIA 0670 SENT ACTION NICOSIA INFO
SECSTATE, CAIRO AND ATHENS AUG 09.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0670

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR IN ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, CY

SUBJ: CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER REQUESTS U.S. ASSISTANCE

WITH EGYPT RE: EL-SIBAI KILLERS

REF: NICOSIA 1998 (REPEATED ALEXANDRIA AS CAIRO 18520)

1. I WAS ABLE TO SHOW REFTEL TO THE SECRETARY SHORTLY
BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THIS MORNING. HE THOUGHT IT BEST
THAT WE NOT ENGAGE OURSELVES IN THIS PROBLEM. IT IS
SOMETHING THAT THE CYPRIOTS MUST THEMSELVES WORK OUT WITH
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THE EGYPTIANS.

2. FYI: AS YOU MAY KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN IN A CONTINUOUS
DIALOGUE WITH THE EGYPTIANS ABOUT THE KHARTOON MURDERS
WHO ARE STILL BEING HELD HERE. AN ANALOGY COULD BE
DRAWN BETWEEN SADAT'S HOLDING THE KHARTOON EIGHT AFTER
SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMEIRY HAD ASKED HIM TO TAKE THEM OVER

AND THE PRESENT CYPRIOT REQUEST, BUT I SUSPECT THAT SADAT IS NOT ANXIOUS TO TAKE ON A NEW BATCH OF CONVICTED PALESTINIAN ASSASSINS AND HOLD THEM HERE. HAVING THE KHARTOUN EIGHT HERE HAS BEEN AWKWARD FOR HIM. SADAT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE KILLERS OF EL-SIBAI SHOULD BE EXECUTED AND HAS LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR THE SITUATION INTO WHICH KYPRIANOU HAS GOTTEN HIMSELF. END FYI.

3. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CYPRIOTS HAVE BEEN WORKING THROUGH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO ARRANGE SOME SORT OF A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT. IN MY JUDGEMENT, THEY SHOULD BE ADVISED TO CONTINUE TO USE THAT CHANNEL OR THE BRITISH (AS THE PROTECTING POWER) FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN HERE AND A CERTAIN AMOUNT TO LOSE BY INJECTING OURSELVES INTO THIS MESSY AFFAIR. EL-SIBAI WAS A LONG TIME FRIEND OF SADAT'S, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT THE AFFAIR. MCCLELLAND UNQUOTE VANCE

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